MARYLAND

COLONIZATION JOURNAL.

CONDUCTED BY JAMES HALL, GENERAL AGENT OF THE MARYLAND STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

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"Nothing is more clearly written in the Book of Destiny, than the Emancipation of the Blacks; and it is equally certain that the two races will never live in a state of equal freedom under the same government, so insurmountable are the barriers which nature, habit and opinion have established between them." JEFFERSON.

RE-PRINT OF THE OLD SERIES OF THE COLONIZATION JOURNAL.

OUR last extract from the old Journal was an article on the climate of Africa, taken from the January No. of 1836. In the next No., that of March, 1836, we find a long description or detail of our tour up the Cavally river, performed in October, 1835. This we have concluded to insert at length in our present No., and if any apology is demanded for thus filling up a whole Journal, we have it at hand, viz. we can find nothing better in these times. We have received no news from the colony since our last publication; our old enemies the abolitionists are quiet now-a-days, at least they have not troubled us; our legislature has resisted some half dozen attempts to induce it to withdraw the State appropriation and leave the colony to perish; our city friends are giving us liberally for these hard times, and every thing is going on quietly and successfully. We therefore can do nothing better than to rehearse our old tale.

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HARPER, *Liberia Nov. 3d*, 1835.

MY DEAR SIR,—In my last communication, per schooner Harmony, I stated to you our relations with the tribes in our vicinity, detailing the palaver with the Half Cavally people, and also my attempt to open a communication to the Cavally river, via. the bush country, and of my sending for, and exchanging presents, &c. with the bush kings in order to effect this object. Although these attempts promised to result in the easy accomplishment of the object desired, yet subsequent events diverted me for a time from bringing the affair to an issue.

I believe I have before hinted to you that kings Freeman, Boleo, and Baphro did not act in good faith in deeding their territory to me, which I then suspected; but delay, in order to investigate the matter at that time, would have been exceedingly dangerous to the whole undertaking. Instead of owning the land, as specified in the deed, they only have claim to a strip, of about five miles in breadth, from Cape Palmas to king Cava's country, of about the same breadth to Half Cavally. They have no claim whatever to more than two miles on the river. The country between us and the river, a few miles from the beach, is owned and possessed by bush kings, totally independent of Freeman, Boleo, and Baphro. Knowing this to be the true situation of the country, I was extremely anxious to treat with the bush kings, ere they perceived that we should ultimately be dependant on them

for land for our people, and to obtain a pre-emptive claim to their territory apparently as a matter of courtesy and kindness rather than necessity.

VISIT TO THE KING OF ROBOOKAH.

Having for some time been aware of the important and extensive influence possessed by king Tom, of Robookah, over the river people, I determined, if practicable, to connect him in some manner with the colony, or at least to cultivate a friendly intercourse with him. For a long time he held off, having been, in the first place, greatly exasperated that our liege kings should take no notice of him in the palaver first held at Cape Palmas at the time of our purchase; and also at not receiving any share of the money, as is customary, in similar cases, in this country. However, by repeated kindness shown him through his head trade-men, he began to manifest a more friendly disposition, and at the time I was about effecting a treaty with the bush kings, as above mentioned, I received a friendly message from king Tom, requesting me to visit him, and stating his willingness to treat with me upon the subject of a cession of his territory, as I had often desired. Upon this I immediately embarked in a canoe for the Cavally river, which I reached in safety, although completely drenched with the surf on landing. About two miles from the river's mouth, I perceived the water, which constantly dashed in upon us, to be much warmer than the sea water generally and almost perfectly fresh. You may therefore judge with what force the Cavally discharges its waters into the ocean. From Baphro's place, I immediately despatched a messenger to king Tom, at Robookah, informing him of my arrival, and that I would wait upon him the day following, and should expect to meet his head-men and sub-kings to sit in the palaver. It will be necessary here to give a slight sketch of the political state of king Tom's dominions at this time. He is the acknowledged head king of the Bulyemah or Grand Devil country, which includes from two to four hundred square miles, situated on the Cavally river, embracing both sides to the extent of ten miles from its mouth, with the exception of a small town belonging to the Half Cavally people, and about three miles from its mouth on the west side, already deeded to and belonging to the Maryland State Colonization Society, occupied by king Baphro, and a head-man named Craugh. King Tom was formerly a bush king, and resided some miles up the river; but as he became more powerful, he removed to the beach and built the town of Robookah, about four miles east of the river mouth. There are two kings belonging to the same tribe, (Yeabreh) subject or rather inferior to him, who inhabit towns, to be hereafter noticed, up the river. There exists at this time a misunderstanding or jealousy, between Tom and his sub-kings, owing to the following cause.—As I said before, and of which I shall speak more particularly hereafter, this is the Grand Devil country. In it is located the grand Delphos, which regulates the political movements of some of the most powerful tribes in Western Africa. This oracle is consulted by all from Grand Bassa to St. Andrew's Bay, and I believe was formerly much visited by Ashantees and Fantees. The votaries are always obliged to make some remuneration in proportion to the magnitude of the matter under consideration, or the ability of the devotee, and this is generally pretty ample, as the nature of the answer or the benefit of the fetish is supposed to depend in some degree upon its amount. There is a kind of high priest, pope, or bishop, appointed by the head-men of the Yeabreh people, who manages the whole business and receives the offering of the pilgrims; this he is obliged to distribute among the head-men of his tribe to their general satisfaction, or he chances to prove a short-lived animal. The last of these dignitaries died by the saucy-wood about a month previous to my visit to Cavally.

Among the candidates for his successor was king Tom himself. This greatly alarmed the two bush kings, as they were sensible that, in case king Tom succeeded, he would trouble himself little about a division of the spoils, and there would be an end to this prolific source of revenue. They accordingly opposed king Tom, and succeeded in procuring the election of a head-man of one of their bush towns. This greatly chagrined the king, and was one of the causes which induced him to treat with me, and cede his territory to the Maryland State Colonization Society, hoping thereby to throw the power he felt himself losing, into other hands than those of his enemies, and to secure himself a good reputation with his new allies. I also subsequently learned that he had received some intelligence of my negociations with the bush kings on the river, and he readily foresaw that should an arrangement be effected with them for opening a road between Cape Palmas and the river, it would materially lessen his consequence, and the value of his territory, or render it less an object of desire to the American agent. All these circumstances led me to suppose that a treaty would be easily effected with king Tom himself; but at the same time I became more doubtful of the dispositions of his sub-kings, who, I perceived, were rather gaining on the old man in consequence and influence.

ROBOOKAH AND KING TOM.

The next day, October 16, I crossed the large basin at the mouth of the Cavally, and proceeded to Robookah.

The town is situated on the beach about four miles from the river, is very old and miserably constructed, both as to materials and location. The small town at the river mouth, called Bluroh, and governed by Kerkeh, one of king Tom's head-men, is infinitely more pleasant and preferable in every respect. After waiting a proper time, his majesty made his appearance in his full court dress, viz: a piece of blue baft around his loins, a check shirt, and kerseymere waistcoat, dragoon's hat and brass trimmings. His countenance is not like that of most African kings of the ordinary cast, indicating a total want of character. Although striking, it was at first by no means pleasing. His forehead is narrow and sloping, his eyes placed at a great distance from each other, his cheek bones very prominent, forming the base of a cone, the apex of which you have in his beard, braided and coiled up under a very sharp chin. When deeply engaged in talking a palaver, he has a faculty or habit of throwing his chin out horizontally, and of straining his eyes to the exterior of their sockets, which gives it an expression truly diabolical. Notwithstanding all this, I found his majesty exceedingly kind, courteous and hospitable, and what was far more, well disposed towards forwarding the subject matter of my voyage.

GOVERNOR WAR.

Another personage belonging to this town soon attracted my notice, and I found him, upon inquiry, to be worthy of a formal introduction to you. I refer to the head-man of the town, whose English name is Governor War. He is the head war-man of the whole Yeabreh tribe, and probably possesses more real influence than any other man in the country. His person is very extraordinary: his countenance extremely calm and placid, yet, at the same time, firm and dignified: he seldom speaks, but always to the purpose; and I noted, that whenever he had given his word upon any subject in question, no one presumed to say more, unless to give assent.

I remained in this man's company more than a week, and daily had some business to transact with him; during the whole of which time, I noticed nothing in his conduct or deportment that would derogate in the least from the character of any distinguished gentleman in the civilized

world; and I had occasion to witness much to admire, and gain at once my confidence and respect. He appeared at one glance fully to understand and appreciate the nature and importance of the business of my mission, and cordially and judicially co-operated with me in all expedient measures proposed for its successful accomplishment.

I found on my arrival that king Tom had not as yet despatched a *real official* to his liege kings, but only a notice of my approach. A messenger was now despatched, demanding their attendance. Of course one day would be lost, ere an answer could be received. However, in the meantime, the palaver was talked with king Tom, and he was found favourably disposed. I at once gave him to understand that I should not make a purchase; that I was now *this countryman*, like himself, and should he see fit to join his country to mine, and enjoy the whole in common with my people, very well: he would receive other advantages, therefor, than pecuniary remuneration. This palaver closed with the day, without any thing definite being effected, as the other kings were absent.

ASCENT OF THE CAVALLY.

Oct. 17.—We waited, without intelligence from the bush kings, until three o'clock in the afternoon, when the messenger returned, stating, that in consequence of their late opposition to king Tom, in election for grand devil priest, they were afraid to visit his town, but would talk the palaver as he should dictate. We now speedily set about it, and agreed upon the most important points, insomuch that I determined ascending the river, and forthwith despatched my head kroomen for goods, pistols, ammunition, and all necessary apparatus for the voyage.

This evening (Saturday) the enclosed deed was executed, and signed by king Tom and head-men, and an escort promised, of Gov. War, and others, to visit the other kings, and assist in setting the palaver with them. I spent Sunday, the 18th, at Robookah. The men did not return with their luggage until late in the evening. Arrangements were made, early on Monday morning, to meet king Tom at Bluroh, to dash him and head-men after I had overhauled our baggage.

The business of preparation for ascending the Cavally river was now speedily commenced. All our baggage had been exposed to the rain, from the time of leaving Cape Palmas, on Sunday morning, until its arrival at Cavally, and remained in boxes until my arrival on Monday noon; consequently, many important articles were rendered useless, and almost every thing required brushing up. I spent the whole afternoon in mounting a large swivel in Baphro's big canoe, which I succeeded in doing, so that it worked admirably. Most of the night was spent in making cartridges, repairing arms and loading. If attacked again, as in our first attempt to ascend the river, I was determined to be in readiness. I had with me three colonists, (Messrs. Lee, Howard and Minor, all good men and true,) and about twenty natives—Two large canoes were requisite for our men, baggage, arms, and trade goods. All things were arranged, and we had a few hours of confused sleep before day. With me, it was *confused* sleep in verity. The near prospect of accomplishing an enterprise, which for the past year had engaged my attention, and in all endeavours to effect which, I had been uniformly foiled—the romantic mystery which enveloped this Grand Devil region, inspired me with the greatest enthusiasm.

I had also received notice that the Half Cavally people were busily engaged in inciting the bush people to acts of hostility, and that they intended to dispute our passage at their river town. I had abundant room for speculation. At day-break all hands were mustered, and our baggage put on board the canoes. The rain poured in torrents, and from the density of

the opaque mass over head, we had but little hope of respite during the morning. But so many, and more powerful obstacles had heretofore baulked our efforts, that rain seemed of little consequence. Never did African voyager embark on the majestic Quorra with more enthusiastic delight than I experienced in stemming the mighty current of my favourite Cavally. From the repeated rains experienced the last few weeks, the river was much swollen, and came down with great power, which obliged us to wind closely under the banks for eddies and counter currents. From the basin as I proceeded up, the river gradually contracted its breadth to half a mile, and sometimes less. Notwithstanding the torrents of rain in which we were drenched, the scenery failed not to excite admiration. We passed three beautiful islands, within a few miles of the river's mouth, two of which had just yielded their crops of rice, and were now thickly covered with a heavy second growth of cassada. The banks were elevated from eight to fifteen feet above the surface of the water, and the frequent ruptures in them, occasioned by the rapidity of the current, indicated a great depth of the richest soil. The western bank was covered to the water's edge with bamboo, and other aquatics, bound into one dense impenetrable mass by the innumerable vines which the rich African soil always sends forth in the greatest profusion. On the east side the prospect was far more interesting, if not more beautiful. Most of the land had been cleared, to the distance of from one-half to two miles from the river bank, and crops of rice and cassada had been successively raised thereon. Some crops were still in the ground; most of the way, however, a heavy growth of spear grass covered the earth, which led one almost to fancy he could hear the whetting of the scythe, and see the hay-cocks in the distance. The back ground of this beautiful landscape presented to the eye the straight, closely studded trunks of immense forest trees. United only by branches at their capitals, they appeared like the stupendous columns of ancient architecture supporting the wide extended evergreen terrace formed by their foliage. Considering the great velocity of the current, we passed up rapidly—the almost incessant rain proved a great stimulus to exertion. The course of the river was, for the first three miles, north-west and north-north-west, gradually rounding for the next five miles to the north-north-east, and even to east at Ploroh, the first town at which we landed.

ARRIVAL AT PLOROH.

The first indications which we perceived of a settlement was a canoe landing: by close watching, we soon perceived, through the bush, a few huts, clustered on the top of a high peak. The hill itself seemed suspended from the branches of the immense trees which rose from its base. So romantic was the spot, that one could hardly feel it to be a human habitation. However, of this we soon had convincing proof, from a shower of musketry poured down upon us, in honour of our arrival. Passing this town, (Denah,) we immediately came abreast of Neatoh, another town, subject to king Toureh of Ploroh, situated like the first mentioned. In a moment after leaving Neatoh, we rounded to under the beautiful located town of Ploroh. Nothing was perceived of it, owing to the immense trees close on the margin of the river, until we were near enough to jump on shore, among the plantain trees, between the houses and water. The main part of the town (that immediately overhanging the river) is elevated about thirty feet from the water level. It is quite small, in comparison with our beach towns, and the houses are miserably constructed. I should judge it did not contain three hundred souls. But all hands were up, and screaming as usual. We gave them a crack from our swivel, which for a time cleared the landing. It was now about half past nine o'clock. We had

been three and a half hours on the passage: the distance is between eight and ten miles—perhaps it may exceed the latter. On entering the town, I soon perceived our Robookah friends, sent by king Tom to assist in the palaver; among whom I was glad to notice Gov. War, or Jeammah, as is his country name. We were obliged to wait at least one hour in the hot sun for the appearance of the king, without whose welcome we could not presume to make ourselves at all at home; besides, it would have appeared quite vulgar, in the eyes of the nobility present, to manifest the slightest uneasiness in consequence of wet garments and empty stomachs. At length a long, lank Jonathan, made his appearance, and was introduced as king Toureh. He was decidedly one of the most contemptible, cross-grained, senseless looking pieces of majesty that I ever encountered, and I became subsequently satisfied that a perfect correspondence subsisted between his person and character. After waiting a proper time, he offered me a house for our luggage, and a he-goat as a breakfast. Poor Capricornicus was despatched in a twinkling, and soon made his appearance in a more acceptable manner, with a pot of boiled rice. After breakfast, I formally made known my business to the king, and desired him to send for his colleague, belonging to the next town up the river. This he promised to do, and I believe forthwith despatched a messenger. Nothing could now be done until the return of the messenger; and I spent the day in receiving dashes from the head-men of the small towns in the vicinity, of which, I believe, there are five dependant upon Ploroh. I also sounded the river for some distance, up and down, and found from four to eight fathoms—not less than the former in any place. It is about two hundred yards broad at Ploroh. During the first night of my stay at this place we were favoured with a grand serenade. Being well slung in my hammock, I was enjoying sweet recompense for the disturbance of the previous night at Baphro's, when I was aroused by the most tremendous din—the strangest concord of discords—the most direful chaos of sounds, that ever offended the ear of mortal. I shall not attempt to analyze or describe this uproar, nor its effects on me. My first impulse was, of course, to make ready for an onset; for I expected that the grand devil and all his imps, instigated by our Half Cavally friends, had determined to take advantage of our situation, and fall upon us. However, I was soon undeceived by our native boys, who informed me that it was the grand devil going his rounds, to keep the town in order; that an additional dozen or so of fiddlers were added to his band that night, in honour of the '*nation's guest.*'

GRAND PALAVER AT PLOROH.

On the next morning (Wednesday, Oct. 21) the messenger returned, stating that king Gunoa could not attend the palaver, that I must first visit his town. I now understood the whole matter. They hoped to get more dashes by dividing the palavers, and retaining me in each town as long as possible. After breakfast, king Toureh assembled the head-men, and sent me notice that he would take it upon himself and people to talk the palaver without king Gunoa, and that they were then ready to hear what I had to say. It may not be amiss, briefly to describe to you the general conduct of this palaver, as it was one of the most perfect specimens I have ever witnessed, and I believe I have never as yet troubled you with the details of one. That you may have a more correct idea of it, I will give it you in all the English that was used on the occasion. The place for holding a palaver is generally under some large tree, and we were this time favoured with the shade of an enormous one, close to the town palaver-house. The whole assembly was first divided into two parts: one consisting of king Toureh and head-men; and the other, of your humble servant, his train of natives and

colnnists, and the head-men of king Tom's country. King Toureh was surrounded by the head-men of his town,—such as town governor, grand devil priest, orator, &c. They were in common dress, and unarmed. On his right, in regular order, sat all the governors of his small towns, backed by their soldiers, with fine burnished muskets. All communication with the king and assembly is made through the orator, who, while speaking, or being addressed, occupies the centre of the open place between the parties. When the orator, or any one, commences speaking, or finishes a sentence, and when he finishes his speech, he commands attention by crying out 'Bâteo!' one, two, or three several times. He is responded to by the whole assembly, with '*bâtee*' at each time, with more or less vehemence, as his remarks are acceptable or otherwise. This has a very imposing effect, and adds much to the dignity of the assembly. The orator now demanded attention, and after a few words to the king, approached me and said:—'You be white man; you done come we country; pose you have word for peak; black man ready for hear what he be.' *Hall.*—'True, I have word for peak; no more he no he all same country man palaver, he be white man word I go peak; no country man word fit go side to him; he be one grand palaver; he never come this country first time. Your old father never hear palaver like that I go peak; pose you hear him properly; he do you good plenty; pose your heart no be good for that palaver; I can't peak him two time. First time God make world, he make one man; he be father for all man live this time. Long time man be few; he have one country, no more; by and by he grow big, he be plenty, he fill all country. One part go for that place, where sun come from; he live long way off—one part go for tother country; he be English, French, and Paniard man. Tother part he be Africa man, your own people; you live this country. Now all man who live tother country, sava make ship, musket, powder, cloth, and plenty, plenty thing you never look in this country. What make this thing so? God make man all same; no more sun make Africa man black; he head be all same white man; he walk all same white man. Now, what make this palaver so?' *Answer.*—'We be black man; we can't sava what for this be so. We will for hear your word; you sava peak true.' *Hall*—'True I sava tell. You country people no mix; you no peak one word; you part—every man live he own side; you no will for let one man pass your country. Plenty bush man live back side to you, who sava make cloth and iron; but you no will for let him come your country; so you can't sava that thing. You no will for let white man live your country; you tief all him money; you make fight to him all time; you make fight for every town live close you. Every pickaninny king say, I pass all man. Every man make he brother slave for white man. This be why country can't 'come up for good.' Your country have big bamboo stick; he fit make house. Pose you take axe, and split him all pieces; he done spoil; he fit burn for make fire, nothing more. All same your country; he done split up, and spoil. This thing make white man heart sorry for black man. This time all white man in America country say, how can we do Africa man good? This live he heart this time. This be what for he send me and plenty America black man this country. He say, Go black man country; peak him all that palaver live we heart; pose he will, buy some country; set down long side to him; make all people peak one word; make black man sava make house, make boat, make proper farm, make cotton for cloth; make he pickaninny one sava book. So that time he come up for man; he can fit white man. So, long time past, I come this country; I buy Cape Palmas; I build town; I make farm; I make country man sava work; I pay him money for every

thing I take from him; I make school this time. Plenty country boy sava book, all same America boy. All this thing, you sava I done do for Cape Palmas people. Long time I hear grand devil name; I hear big word for country live river side; my heart say I must look him; I must hear he word, pose he be good. I done look king Tom; we mix word; I done make book for he country. That book say he country be America country this time all same Cape Palmas. That book make all country one; so they all be one people; all peak one word; every man pass where he please, no palaver live any place; every side be clear. Country man can pass, bring trade, can work for money for America man. He pickaninny can go school; American man can come bush country, go river, build house any place he please. All this palaver live book. King Tom put he name for book; all he head-men like this palaver; he done send he head-men for peak you this palaver long-side to me. You done hear their word; you done hear my word; I peak no more.'

Response.—'We done hear your word; we tink he be good; we tank you. No more, he fit we look we head; then you can hear we word.'

Upon this, an adjournment took place for private consultation. In about an hour we were again assembled, and the orator spoke to the following amount:—'We done look we head for that word you done peak. All man heart be glad. We old, old father never hear white man peak word. That word you peak please all man; we will for that you peak. We will for you come this country for set down here; for do that fash your heart please. We will for put our name for book all same king Tom. *We thank you—we thank you.*'

DIFFICULTIES AT PLOROH.

Thus ended the palaver. After dinner, the deeds were executed. Every specification was fully explained, giving to every clause the broadest interpretation, and much wrangling ensued previous to signing. After this the dashes were produced. This business had been in their hearts from the beginning, and like civilized people, they affected to feel a great deal for the benefit of the rising generation, &c. while the present gain was the only incitement to action. At sight of the cloth, tobacco, &c., his majesty appeared quite indignant, and sulkily demanded if the whole was a dash for him or for his people. He was informed that they were intended for him and people altogether, that he could divide them as he thought proper. His conduct gave a cue to the others—a scene of confusion ensued, which can only be witnessed in an African town. I quietly waited its termination near two hours, but in vain; reason, and even words, were out of the question. Night was approaching and I ordered the goods returned to the house. They all menaced us by gestures at least, and declared that we should not go up the river, that we should go back as soon as morning came. To all of this I made no reply, and seemed perfectly indifferent to the clamour on all sides. This irritated them so much the more, and it seemed as if they would split their throats and throw their limbs from their bodies, so outrageous was their yelling and so violent were their gestures. I feared no violence from them until we should attempt to ascend the river, but I doubted much if the palaver could be quietly set. I perceived from the first, that the Half Cavally people maintained a powerful influence over the minds of many, and although they talked palaver with us in the day, I was well informed that an embassy from Cavally opposed us in the night. I had determined not to move our goods from the house in which we lodged, but to fix our swivel in the floor, capsize the roof and sides, and then clear the town, which we could easily do, as we were situated immediately in the centre, on the apex of the hill. First,

however, I thought proper to use all palliative measures. In the evening, I sent privately for king Toureh, and dashed him as if for his kind entertainment, expressed my sorrow that the palaver was spoiled, intimating that I should leave early in the morning for home. In like manner I served several other head-men, unknown to each other, among whom was the grand devil priest. He said that I must not go, that he would induce the king to set the palaver to-morrow. Early in the morrow, king Toureh dashed me a bullock, and said I must stay until breakfast. I found the Half Cavally people had been up last night, and pressed their suit to have them turn us back very strongly, but their promises of remuneration fell so far short of my yesterday's dash, that they rather lost than gained by this movement. After breakfast the palaver was again opened, and was continued among themselves four hours at least. Finally, I was asked if I wished to go up the river; I replied, that I had talked my palaver, that it was good and they knew it, that they had behaved so, that I cared little whether they accepted my dash or not; that I would add a few things more, and if they took it, well and good; if not, I should do what I pleased. They desired that the money might be again produced; it was done, and I must own it gave me much pleasure to see the king roll up his tobacco in a piece of romauls. The receiving money is their only bond to a contract.

DIVISION OF THE PRESENTS AT PLOROH.

The moment the king's money was deposited in his chest, a scene of confusion ensued that almost killed me with laughter. All hands simultaneously seized upon the whole pieces of bleached cotton, which were coiled round and round their smoky houses, and dragged in the mire of the town in every direction. Some one more fortunate than his fellows would envelope himself in half a dozen folds, slash both sides with his cutlass, and clear for the bush. Eight or ten others would half agree upon the division of a piece, when some long two-fisted fellow would dash himself into the ring, fold the whole into his arms, paw some half dozen fellows into the dirt, and make his way off. I saw one old head-man of a small town entangled in a coil of shirting. He was so corpulent as to be hardly able to waddle—a few lusty youngsters, unmindful of his situation, were tugging violently at each end; the poor old man was rolled among the mud and rocks, at once crying aloud for baft and mercy. Many other articles proved not so difficult of distribution, or rather division. The pipes and looking-glasses shortly fulfilled their destiny. Cutlasses and knives were drawn through many a naked hand. The tobacco was saved by handfulls. Many of the head-men were unable to secure even one leaf. One little fellow, a governor for a bush town, particularly excited my compassion and merriment. In the midst of the fray, they had torn off the cloth he wore from home, and he came begging for another. He was in a woful plight, indeed; entirely naked below a thick woollen roundabout, in which he was buttoned to the chin. That part of his face which appeared between this and a thick felt hat crammed over his eyebrows, indicated the deepest agony. He sobbed and whined so dolefully, that I gave him a fathom of romauls, which at least, improved his appearance.

VISIT TO HAIDEE.

The palaver was now set in good earnest, and I determined to be off while the turmoil lasted. We accordingly took a hasty leave of king Toureh, manned our canoes, gave them a parting gun, and once more, to my infinite satisfaction, turned our prows up the stream. King Gunoa of Haidee, had sent a man the night previous to escort us to his town. I took him on board my canoe. My old friend Jeammah was also one of our

party. We left Ploroh about four o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday, October 22d. The distance to Haidee is four or five miles. We arrived in time to witness one of those delightful mellow sunsets, which I had thought peculiar to an American horizon; at least, I never before enjoyed one in Africa. The town is on the east side, and immediately overhanging the river, whose waters appeared to move onwards with unusual tranquility. Opposite was the site of an old demolished town, noted only by the immense plantain orchard, which rose in the midst of an extensive rice and cassada field; beyond was the dense forest, occasionally overtopped by one of those magnificent trees, frequently noticed on the banks of the Cavally, whose dark green foliage formed not an unpleasing contrast with the soft world of light, fast fading in the west. I am not so world-worn but a scene like this would, under any circumstances, absorb my attention and render me contemplative; but now, after suffering three days and nights of clamour and confusion at that detestable Ploroh, it was doubly soothing to my over anxious spirit, and seemed a harbinger of less troublesome times.

I stated to king Gunoa, this evening, the object of my visit, and that I hoped from what I had heard of his good name, that the palaver would be easily set in the morning, and I be enabled at once to pursue my journey. At this his majesty seemed not a little elated, and promised I should meet with different treatment than he had been informed I had received at Ploroh. With this promise I turned in for the night, hoping to enjoy the rest which I so much required. But as ill-luck would have it, the king's brother died that night, in the house next us, and the dismal funeral howl dissipated all hopes of slumber.

The next morning, October 23d, nothing could be done until the man was buried, and this could not be until the sun had arrived at a certain point in his downward course, say two o'clock, P. M., consequently the day was lost. I sounded the river in sundry places, and found it from four to seven fathoms. About sun-down, the head-men convened, heard what I had to say and promised to confirm king Tom's contract early in the morning. On Saturday, October 24, I came very near being again foiled. A man was to take saucy-wood for witching or poisoning the king's brother, and all hands must attend. With much coaxing and dashing I overruled this movement, and set the man clear. We had nothing now to do but sit down, read, and explain the nature of the deed, the obligations of both parties, and sign it. This was speedily effected. The dashes were now produced, and at once accepted, with, I believe, a sincere expression of thanks.

VISIT TO THE ORACLE OF THE GRAND DEVIL COUNTRY.

After breakfast I asked permission to visit the grand devil, which, after much consultation was granted. Accordingly a canoe was manned, guide and priest put on board, and we forthwith pulled away for the famous oracle. The creek which leads to it empties into the Cavally, close to the town. It is very narrow and deep, and comes down with considerable velocity. The water is not muddy like the river, but very dark, so that the bottom is perceptible in no place. The banks are covered with large trees, and a dense undergrowth of vines and other shrubs, oftentimes meeting over head, rendering the passage exceedingly gloomy; and to a timid mind, even dreadful. From our first entrance into the creek, the priest standing in the bow of the canoe, dressed in all the insignia of his order, occasionally, in a deep hollow tone, called upon his devilship, informing him of our approach, and of the quality of his new votary. We pulled up the current about four miles, and then landed. The guide now conducted us, by a most miserable, shrubby place, in a circuitous route to the top of a hill, elevated

something like two hundred feet above the level of the creek, and a distance of at least one mile from the landing. Here we found a thatched shed and some blocks to rest ourselves upon until the priest should go and see "if grand devil live home this time, and if he will for look America man." On stepping a few rods into the bushes, he commenced his inquiry in the same hollow tone, and was shortly answered by a whistle at a distance. He soon returned with a favourable answer, viz: that we were welcome, and grand devil be glad for look white man. We were now joined by another party, who had come across the bush. We were here shown a certain tree, having a hard rough bark, which cuts like a knife, or rather scratches like a grater, against which all were directed to rub their bodies, as it is said to preserve life: which it no doubt would if external irritation was necessary. The boys all rubbed their carcasses with great satisfaction. I declined the favour. His satanic majesty was now said to be waiting for us. We accordingly began to descend the other side of the hill, where no path at all existed, except what was formed by a water course. This we followed near half a mile, often letting ourselves down several feet of perpendicular rocks, supporting ourselves by vines and bushes, then hobbling over masses of sharp stones, occasionally slipping into the brook, and wetting a foot or limb, and now and then receiving a gentle hint from some overhanging thorn to use more caution in a place so sacred. At length we overtook our priest and guide, the former seated under a rock about eight feet square, set in one bank of the rivulet, and slightly arched in front, where the priest was sitting. A small square rock rests in the middle of the stream, on which I had the honour to be seated, and which, I believe, is always occupied by any one consulting the oracle. I was asked if I wished to consult the grand devil in any matter: I answered no! that I only wished to see the place and shake his hand, that I might put his name in the big book I was about to send to America. They now commenced their incantations, slowly at first, but soon with increased vehemence. After a proper time, a low growl was heard under the rock. All now appeared to manifest great joy and reverence. This growl was interpreted to me as a demand of my business. I stated it as before. Whereupon another growl followed, which was a demand to know what I had brought him. I practised the foolery until I satisfied myself whence the noise proceeded, and then declined further intercourse.

It has generally been supposed by the more intelligent natives that some man is concealed under the rock, but it is not so. On first seeing the rock and position of the priest, I readily concluded that he, himself, was the grand devil, and further observation confirmed me in this conclusion. During the exorcisms or incantations, I watched the muscles of his chest and abdomen, and perceived their action to be natural; but during the long deep growls I perceived his chest slowly to contract, until the noise ceased, and then the muscles acted as before. The devil had a wonderful faculty of throwing *multum in parvo*, as one short growl formed three or four English sentences.

Knowing the extensive celebrity of this oracle, the implicit confidence placed in its predictions, and the high value of the fetishes, I was prepared to meet with something marvellous or imposing in the place itself, or the ceremonies of the priests. I had supposed at least, that there would be some slight-of-hand management or juggling in the affair, in a manner to deceive the senses. But there is no such thing. The whole farce falls infinitely short of our children's boo-peep or blind man's buffet. And how or wherefore it should maintain such extensive influence over the minds of the most intelligent tribes on the sea-coast to the extent of six hundred

miles, is truly astonishing. However disgusted and disappointed I was, I professed to be much astonished at the supernatural growlings, and promised his invisible majesty that his big name should go book for long America, and set about clambering the rocks on my return. The excessive fatigue which I had undergone tempted me very strongly to slake my thirst in the pure stream, which came tumbling down upon me in my ascent, and which is said to prove fatal to all who presume to rob the grand devil of his own especial beverage. Being a little ahead of my train, I made bold to filch a few swallows, much to my own relief and the horror of one of my Cape Palmas boys who twigged me in the act. He, however, wisely held his peace until we had finished a pot of soup on our return, well knowing that when the honour of the grand devil was at stake, a little fetish, always at hand with these people, would probably have been dashed into my mess, and its effects been attributed to the sacred water.

ARRIVAL AT DENAH.

We left Haidee about three o'clock, P. M. of Saturday, and again bent our course up the river. About three miles from Haidee, we passed the Bropaum creek, the northern river boundary of our newly acquired territory, and entered the confines of Negapo. We soon hove in sight of Nopatea. I sent my head-man on shore with a dash of pipes and tobacco, as a shake-hand palaver. This would not answer, we must come on shore and stay all night. I objected; still they persisted, and I thought showed little more than friendly earnestness. I knew what would be the result if we went on shore. They had heard of the contract with the Yeabreh people, and of the splendid dashes which I had made them, and were determined to obtain the same themselves. But neither time nor funds would admit of opening a negociation with the people at present. When I gave orders to put out, they became outrageous, and threatened to stop us on our return. Passing on, we soon arrived at Ne-he-ro, a town which had lately been burned by the Napateo people, with whom they were now at war. Here the old head-man received our pipes and tobacco with thanks and good wishes for a prosperous voyage. We passed Bluroh, a small town on the western bank, and arrived at Denah near dark. The town of Denah is located on the apex of a rocky hill, something like one hundred and fifty or two hundred feet above the river. It contains about two hundred houses, and perhaps fifteen hundred inhabitants. The river here turns suddenly from north to east, forming opposite the town a beautiful water oound plain, covered with a luxuriant growth of our tropical vegetables. You have a full view of the river in the south as far as Nehero. This is really a splendid, charming situation. It was to the king of this place that I formerly despatched a messenger, inviting him to visit our settlement, that I might induce him to permit me to open a communication through his territory to the river. The messenger was also requested to invite the king of the Bush country, residing between this and Cape Palmas. With true African cunning the bush king told the messenger that he would inform the king of Denah and both come together. He sent a child to Neh, the Denah king, which was equivalent to mocking him; and came to the Cape alone, thinking by so doing to render himself more consequential and receive a larger dash. This management I had never learned until my arrival at Denah. Of course I was astonished to find king Neh ill-disposed towards me. On the evening of my arrival he gave my head-men to understand that we could not be allowed to proceed on our voyage. This was not the most pleasing intelligence, situated as we were in the midst of this large town, containing at least one hundred good musket men. Open opposition was useless. We had other sources, also, of disquiet, less im-

portant, but more immediately annoying, viz: a heavy charge from at least one thousand people, void of all restraint or decency, determined at the hazard of broken pates and bloody noses, to gratify their curiosity: not a curiosity to *see* a white, but to watch his every action and gesture. The slightest movement of any kind, as spitting, eating, drinking, taking off one's hat, or even looking at one another, occasioned the most deafening and continued clamour. All this I endeavoured to endure with christian-like fortitude and resignation.

FEASTING IN AFRICA.

The house was finally cleared, and we were found alive in the morning, whose light revealed to us the cause of the annoyance of one of our senses, before inexplicable. Six days previous to our arrival they had killed a very large elephant about twenty miles distant, and had just succeeded in depositing the whole in and about the palaver house for division. This meat, when newly killed, has a peculiarly disagreeable and very strong smell, enough to deter any delicate stomach from receiving a morsel; but now that it had been six days exposed to the sun by day and moon by night, and had become completely re-animated, it emitted a stench inconceivably horrible. Of this savoury melange of the quick and dead, the whole town of Denah had become fully saturated, so that no hope of exemption or momentary freedom from this all-pervading deluge of putrefaction remained. The breath and perspiration of the inhabitants exhaled it even more deadly than the disjointed carcase itself. This rendered my case hopeless, as the latter might have been shunned, but the former never. I had not supposed it possible for the human stomach to receive so revolting a substance, much less to relish it.

ADVANTAGES OF THE MEDICAL CHARACTER.

On the morning of Sunday, October 25, I had an interview with king Neh, but neither of us were disposed to touch upon the river palaver. He was much cast down in consequence of the sickness of one of his young wives. I offered to look at her, at which he appeared gratified. I found her labouring under severe inflammation of the whole contents of the abdomen, and in excruciating agony. I informed the king that but little hope remained of effecting a cure, but temporary relief could be produced. I applied a blister of an extremely acrid root of the country; gave a full dose of laudanum, and put her into a warm bath. Speedy relief from pain ensued, and the patient soon fell into a profound sleep. This effected a total change in the king; he called my head-man, told him I must go when and where I pleased, had a bullock killed, and a large quantity of rice prepared for our journey. I gave him to understand that I duly appreciated his kindness, talked of the proposed road across the country, of the advantages that intercourse with the Americans would be to his people, &c. He said his country was large, and the people few; that he would be glad to make any arrangements relative to the possession of a part of it by the Americans, that I might propose. I promised to come to his country and set the palaver at some future time. This I shall endeavour to effect as soon as circumstances will permit, and I have little doubt but this man will become one of the most effective and useful allies to the colony. His territory is very extensive; in fact, unbounded on the north-west and east, that is, no boundaries have as yet been established, not having come in contact with his neighbours in their farming operations. Up the river his dominions extend at least eight miles on both sides. The river here, as you will perceive by my map, forms a very material curve, leaving this the most westerly point for some miles: of course the most desirable spot at which

to intersect it with a road from Cape Palmas. Above this we could hardly expect to reach it, and no point below would be so desirable. You will, therefore, readily see the vast importance of the proposed arrangement with king Neh. I regret not having been better supplied with funds, that I might have secured Nopatea and Nehero, in my course up. In that case the whole of what is termed the half-bush country would have been unalterably ours.

SCENERY OF THE CAVALLY.

Picture to yourself a majestic deep river, moving smoothly onward, with an ever calm, unruffled surface, banks elevated from ten to forty feet above its level, indicating, by their frequent ruptures, an incredible depth of the richest soil that any combination of earthy matter is capable of forming. Fancy, as you glide down the stream, alternately on either side, the top of the bank, skirted with a heavy thick growth of impenetrable spear grass, the ready successor to a crop of vegetables or grain, or perhaps still teeming with its rich waving harvest of rice, interspersed with occasional clusters of Indian corn. Occasionally, on the very edge of the bank, you are astonished to behold one of those huge trees from which the natives excavate their immense canoes, left, as if to declare to the inquiring passenger, we are the original possessors of the soil. On the opposite side you are no less charmed with *nature* in *nature's* own garb. The banks, not less elevated, are covered with all the varieties of the African forest trees, from the very tops of which a broad expanse of net-work descends and sweeps the passing current. Beyond this beautiful green drapery fancy alone can penetrate. It may be the abode of water nymphs or alligators, naiades or anacondas. Leaving them to themselves, just stretch your eye through the long vista formed by these variegated banks, 'til it rests on that slight elevation, in the distant curve of the river, which gives a brighter reflection of light than the surrounding deep-green forest. This, you will perceive on your approach, is the site of a native town. You soon see the conical hay-cock houses crowning its summit; for a little distance on either side you will soon distinguish the bright, short green grass, on which are feeding flocks of sheep and goats, with great numbers of sleek, black, fat beeves. A nearer approach will introduce you to nothing more interesting; the din soon commences, which I will spare you and myself too. When you have seen thus much through the dull perspective of my pen, you will have a correct view of the Cavally from Denah to its mouth. Of the face of the country back from the river I know nothing from personal observation. I should think, however, from what I could learn, that it was neither elevated nor marshy, but a continued extensive arable savanna, capable of yielding successive heavy crops of the most exhausting produce with comparatively little injury.

Before day, on Monday morning, Oct. 26, the loud wailing of the women gave me to understand that my poor little patient had taken her departure for a less palaverous sphere; and deeming it improper to trouble king Neh in his grief, I ordered all hands quietly to ship our baggage, and we were soon under way. The sun had not yet risen to dispel the damp, heavy fog, which proved exceedingly chilly and disagreeable to me, although it stimulated the hands to most vigorous exertion.

After passing up one or two miles from Denah, we saw no traces of cultivation, or of the labours of man. The land was much less elevated than what we had heretofore passed, occasionally shelving to the water's edge, and skirted with mangrove, although no indication of marshes were observed. The soil also appeared more sandy and rocky. Perhaps this may account for its not being tenanted. I could, however, perceive from Denah, that there appeared to be an elevated ridge back from the river. About

seven miles up, we passed a beautifully elevated spot on the eastern bank, a curve of the river here forming a deep, spacious bay. I ordered the men to pull across; but no! I demanded the cause, and was told of a tradition that is current among them, and universally believed, viz: that a big snake once inhabited this place, and subsisted entirely on the canoe-men who passed up and down; that so great was the dread of him, that the river was wholly abandoned, and a carrying place was opened on the opposite side. At length the head-men of Enemo contrived to slay him in the following manner.

They heated a stone for some days in the fire, then killed a sheep, and quickly sewing the stone up in his abdomen, put the whole into a canoe, and pushed it into the stream. The snake (as in duty bound) swallowed the jest, and soon died in great agonies. Notwithstanding years have elapsed since this famous exploit, they affirm that no canoe has ever approached that bank, and this I verily believe; for neither threats nor entreaties could induce them to put me on shore, or even cross the stream.

About eight miles from Denah, we breakfasted on the Ai-wy-bli-yoo rock, which runs shelving into the stream. Never did cold, boiled bullock and rice meet with a more cordial reception; and river water was a prime article. From this, one mile brings you to Enemo, on the eastern bank. The land becomes considerably more elevated than any yet passed.

Eu-dou-re-vous, a town at some distance from the river, on the west side, is situated on an elevation of three hundred feet. We had not a fair view of it until our descent. We this forenoon passed the towns you will notice on the map,—all of which are beautifully situated, and are generally about the size of Ploroh or Haidee,—as far as Loo.

At Loo the natives said we must, and should come on shore; we would not, nor could not; so the palaver stood for some minutes, amidst a tremendous shower of rain. But on we went, and having rounded a point a little past the town, hauled in shore to partake of our lunch or dinner. While here, my head-man informed me, that in consequence of our not stopping, the Loo people would make palaver for their trade-men, who might ascend the river hereafter, and he begged me to return and stay all night. Being rather weary, I yielded, and we turned back to be deafened and smothered to death by the barbarous kindness of these people.

Here I was much less annoyed by the natives than I expected. It is a beautiful place, and I spent a very agreeable afternoon in contemplating the variety of the surrounding scenery. After breakfasting the next morning, and talking a half hour's palaver, in which I was violently urged to stop another day, we departed on our voyage.

APPROACH TO THE MOUNTAINS AND ARRIVAL AT THE CATARACTS.

A few miles further up, we hove in sight of the Yapah mountains, on the east side of the river, considerably more elevated than Najiro. About four miles from Loo, we passed five small towns, on the east side of the river, scattered about on the peaks of little sugar-loaf hills. Their names you will see on the map. Some, as Detna and Uto, were considerably elevated—say from one to two hundred feet. On the west side, a little past these towns, we hove to, a moment under the banks of the sweet little town of Nanya. I have never seen any town that could at all compare with it. The houses are externally plastered with a light yellow clay; they are located at a convenient distance from each other; the streets are perfectly clean and smooth, skirted with beautiful short green grass.—Altogether the place was so charming, that I was for once urged by my kroomen to despatch. We here procured a canoe to conduct us through

the rapids, which commence immediately on leaving the town. We had very strong pulling the rest of the way.

About two miles from Nanya we came to the falls; where the river is divided by an island. I did not particularly examine the eastern branch. We took the western, which, after a very dangerous passage, brought us immediately under the foam of the cataract, to Faye, a small beautifully located town, belonging to king ——, of Netea. From the best information I could obtain, I should judge that there were a succession of falls and rapids for some miles up the river. The lower one allows a fall of water of about ten feet—perhaps less, and forms one of the most perfect natural mill privileges I have ever seen. The soft rock on the western bank could be easily excavated as a flume, and the water supply a wheel perfectly free from any danger, from freshes or floods. The privileges for any kind of mills or machinery at this place must be innumerable, from the repeated succession of the falls, and the division of the river. That they will at no very distant period be occupied to some extent, I think we have great reason to hope.

After landing our canoes and luggage at Faye, word came from the head king of the country, at Netea, that we must visit his town, said to be close at hand. Having concluded that neither funds, time, nor duty, would admit of my farther ascending the river, I determined to visit Netea. Leaving our swivel, ammunition, chest, and some heavy baggage, at Faye, carrying only our small arms, we set off for the bush town. It will be useless to describe the vexations of a jaunt of six miles, through a thick undergrowth of bush and brier, following a zigzag bush path, when you had only anticipated a distance of half a mile. My patience was completely exhausted; also my strength.

(To be continued.)

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